REMARKS

The amendment to the claims set forth herein does not reduce the scope of the claims as filed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 28, 2002

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on October 28, 2002 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.
Date: October 28, 2002

Patricia Beilmann

ATTACHMENT A - S/N 09/721,264

MARKED UP COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

13. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising [the steps of]:

fabricating a magnetic media layer upon a surface material of a substrate;

fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer[, including the steps of] by:

fabricating an initial thickness DLC layer portion upon said magnetic layer utilizing a relatively low ion carbon beam energy;

fabricating a subsequent thickness DLC layer portion upon said initial thickness DLC layer portion utilizing a relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

16. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk as described in claim 13, including [the further step of] fabricating an intermediate thickness DLC layer portion between said initial DLC layer portion and said subsequent DLC layer portion, wherein said intermediate thickness DLC layer portion is fabricated utilizing a relatively mid-range carbon ion beam energy between said relatively low carbon ion beam energy and said relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

22. (Once amended) A method for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising [the steps of]:

fabricating a magnetic material layer upon a material surface of a substrate;

fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer, wherein said DLC layer is fabricated [in the steps of] by:

depositing carbon ion species upon said magnetic layer utilizing a relatively low carbon ion beam energy of from approximately 10 eV to approximately 20 eV, to deposit an initial DLC layer thickness;

subsequently increasing the carbon ion beam energy level as the thickness of said DLC layer increases due to deposition of carbon ion species within said DLC layer, such that higher energy carbon ion beam species become implanted within said DLC layer thickness.